

**METHOD OF DEFINING WORKFLOW RULES FOR MANAGING
INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A computer-implemented method of managing documents related to a patent application. In one embodiment the method includes storing a first workflow rule on a server system where the first workflow rule causes the server system to generate a message that requests approval to prepare a patent application for an invention disclosure and route the message to a second client system upon receipt of a first signal indicating a request to submit the invention disclosure for approval. The method also includes storing a first invention disclosure in a database accessible by said server system; receiving, at the server system, a first signal from a first client system indicating a request to submit the first invention disclosure for approval. Upon receipt of the first signal, the server system then executes the first workflow rule to generate a message requesting approval of a second client system to prepare a patent application from the first invention disclosure and communicate the message to the second client system.

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